

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PRS-01 L-01 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 /047 W

----- 046254

R 041515Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO USMISSION USUN NY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4928

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0108

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, UN, PFOR

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA NON-AGGRESSION PACTS

REFS: CAPE TOWN 80, USUN 0397

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS MINISTER OF DEFENCE P.W. BOTHA SAID IN PARLIAMENT AFTERNOON FEB 3 THAT IN TIME SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT CONCLUDE DEFENCE PACTS WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES UNDER TERMS OF WHICH SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE CALLED UPON TO HELP REPULSE COMMUNIST ATTACKS. BOTHA WAS SPEAKING DURING DEBATE ON NEW SAG DEFENCE LEGISLATION (CAPE TOWN 80).

2. COMMENT: MIN DEFENCE'S STATEMENT DOES NOT OF COURSE SPEAK TO ISSUE OF NON-AGGRESSION PACTS BUT IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO PERHAPS BE OF INTEREST. SOTTELET'S REPORT OF PIK BOTHA'S COMMENTS FITS PATTERN OF SAG'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND, WE BELIEVE PRIVATE BELIEF, THAT ITS INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA CAN BE UTILIZED AS PLUS FACTOR IN PROMOTION OF "DETENTE" WITH MODERATE AFRICAN STATES. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT BLACK STATES, EVEN
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ONES SUCH AS LIBERIA OR IVORY COAST WHICH CONTEMPLATING

ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA, WOULD
RISK FURTHER CENSURE BY ENTERING INTO LARGELY GRATUITOUS
"NON-AGGRESSION PACTS" WHICH WOULD BE VIEWED AS GOING
BEYOND "DIALOGUE" WITH RACIST REGIME INTO AREA OF OPEN
ACCEPTANCE OF APARTHEID. CONCEIVABLE THAT NON-AGGRESSION
PACT MIGHT BE AMONG TREATIES SAG PLANNING TO SIGN WITH
TRANSKEI BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER LATTER'S INDEPENDENCE,
BUT WE HAVE HAD NO HINT OF THIS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, ANTICOMMUNIST, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760042-1022
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacvzq.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 CAPE TOWN 80
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICA NON-AGGRESSION PACTS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, UN, (BOTH, P W)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006